

# Touch

keeping in

UNIVERSAL FELLOWSHIP OF METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCHES

November 1995

## Building Contributions Climb to \$800,000!

Rev. David Farrell

**W**hen Rev. Elder Perry introduced this project at General Conference in Atlanta he presented the vision for UFMCC's acquisition

### COVER STORY

of a beautiful, modern building complex in West Hollywood, California. He spoke of it as a spiritual center for UFMCC and the communities we serve, and a permanent home for MCC Los Angeles. Rev. Perry described the well-designed, attractive, reasonably priced property as a "tool for evangelism." He spoke of a visitors center, an archives/museum area, a chapel (dedicated to parents who unconditionally love their children), and a technology center, a place

**On Tour:** Rev. Elder Troy Perry continues his tour of local churches, promoting the Capital Campaign. He stopped at MCC Austin in October.

where the present could meet the future. In short, a facility to equip and train the next generation of UFMCC leadership.

This is UFMCC's first ever effort at fundraising on such a large scale, and God has truly blessed us. A short time ago, we had nothing — and now there is \$825,515 in our building fund! This includes \$605,935 in cash, and \$217,580 in pledges. Here's a report on the Capital Campaign's progress:

In the Los Angeles/Southern California area, Rev. Elder Nancy Wilson and the members and friends of MCC-LA's "Dare to Dream" campaign committee have been making personal solicitations to individual prospects, planning and organizing fundraising activities, and continuing their all-member canvass, offering an ownership opportunity for every person in their care. They are seeing some excellent results, pledges totaling \$143,750 as of Oct. 17th!

Rev. David Farrell has been concentrating on arrangements for Rev. Elder Perry's tour of churches and appointments for Rev. Perry with individual prospects for major gifts. Since mid-September, the campaign has visited MCC churches in Oklahoma, Texas, Arizona, and Florida. As Rev. Perry shares his vision "For the Next Generation" on these visits, his presentations

have blessed and energized each local church, and have led to an outpouring of gifts and goodwill.

Gifts and pledges from the first ten churches of Rev. Perry's tour have totaled

\$123,000. Now it's your turn. As God's people, all of us know that the money we need is out there. The Capital Campaign is "looking for a few good...prospects"! God has placed the funds we need in someone's care...we just need to know who they are!

That's where you come in. Maybe you have been richly blessed in a financial way. If so, please give the most prayerful consideration to being one of those whom God uses to answer prayers, to make things happen, to make dreams come true. Give your most generous gift ever—do it today.

Certainly many of us may know those who are capable of making a major gift. Tell us about them, and how we might best approach them and ask for a gift. Or, if you prefer, pray earnestly about it, ask God for just the right words, and approach them yourself! And do it today.

At every phase of this campaign and in every campaign visit, Rev. Perry has asked for gifts and pledges and also for the encouragement and prayers of our congregations. Please be in prayer for our leadership, our committees, and for the success of our Capital Campaign.

God is with us...this is going to happen!

### BUSINESS OF THE FELLOWSHIP

## Council Grapples with Mandates from Conference

**General Conference Seventeen** in Atlanta marked one of the most productive and prolific business sessions of any general conference ever. Delegates considered sweeping changes proposed by several committees and task forces, accepting reports that significantly alter the Fellowship status quo. The result is a monumental task of planning, timing, and implementation.

In late October, the Elders and General Council met to begin the process. Procedural questions about implementation, the mechanics of





compliance, realistic challenges for staffing and ramifications to the Fellowship budget dominated their agenda. Included was the establishment of the new Board of Ordained Ministry and other stipulations of the Clergy Credentials and Concerns Committee report regarding credentialing and the revised process. Creation of Pilot Projects and the new Geographic Review Board were discussed at length and timetables established. Council members began to define the scope of the new World Jubilee concept, the first of which will be held in Sydney, Australia in 1997. They began to deal with establishing a flexibility clause and articulating guidelines for the teaching churches concept.

Ongoing work included defining ministry priorities for future years and resolving questions about the new Ministry of Global Outreach. Elders and Council members also considered status reports concerning the purchase of the new Global Headquarters building, and developments of the Strategic Growth Initiative, including

skills-building and training sessions detailing various risk management issues. In addition, Council members met in teams to consider other pressing Fellowship business, including leadership recruitment and training, human resources issues, denomination assistance to districts, and public relations.

#### GLOBAL OUTREACH

## Miracles for Nigeria

When a team from UFMCC travels to Nigeria at the end of 1995, they will carry with them a gift from the estate of a former member of MCC churches in New Zealand. The Swindello Trust was born from a specific bequest to assist needy children in underdeveloped countries. The first installment of this trust in the amount of \$17,800 is being given to

assist the establishment of a hospital in Nigeria. Richard Warnock, Trust treasurer, explained that Mr. Swindello came to MCC many years ago, but by the time of his death in 1992, had not been at an MCC service for years. "He left a bequest in his estate in New Zealand to be administered overseas by MCC in New Zealand," explained Warnock. "This means that we can help in places that might otherwise never see help." While the ongoing bequest is not restricted to UFMCC activities, the trustees of MCC Aotearoa determine the recipients, within the limitations of Mr. Swindell's will.

#### COLORADO

## MCC of the Rockies Breaks Ground for Housing

Ground was broken on September 17 for the largest housing project designed specifically for persons living with HIV/AIDS in the Denver, Colorado, metropolitan area. Chesney-Kleinjohn House is designed as a provider of independent living, and is being built on a lot one block

from MCC of the Rockies. Fully accessible, the three-story building will include seventeen units. Each includes a kitchen and bathroom which can be modified to meet the individual needs of each tenant. There will also be common areas with outdoor terraces, wheelchair-accessible showers, laundry facilities, and on-site parking.

The project is the realization of the dream of Keith Chesney, a former Presbyterian minister and advocate for the homeless. After caring for his partner, Ray Kleinjohn, at home until his death, Keith began to conceive of the project. Upon his own death in 1993, Keith endowed MCC of the Rockies with \$250,000 as seed money for the project.

The church has established a separate non-profit corporation to manage the building, and has raised the entire \$1.9 million needed to complete the complex.

#### DISTRICTS

## 1996 District Events

| District    | Date        | Event                                                   |
|-------------|-------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| SCD         | May 16-18   | District Conference                                     |
| MAPD        | May 23-26   | District Conference, Minneapolis                        |
| LAM GO      | July        | Latin American Ministry Women's Conference, Mexico City |
| SED         | April 19-20 | Leadership Conference, St. Petersburg                   |
| Australia   | Jan. 26-28  | District Conference, Brisbane                           |
| GLD         | May 17-19   | District Conference, Chicago                            |
| GLD         | Oct. 4-6    | District Conference, Louisville                         |
| New Zealand | Oct 11-13   | Area conference, Christchurch                           |
| ECD         | May 17-20   | District Retreat, Halifax                               |
| ECD         | Sept. 27-29 | District Conference, Toronto                            |
| GLAD        | Nov. 17-19  | District Conference, Asheville                          |
| GLAD        | May 17-19   | District Conference, Nashville                          |
| NED         | Nov. 3-5    | District Conference, Albany                             |
| NWD         | May 24-27   | District Conference, San Francisco                      |
| MAD         | Nov. 3-4    | District Conference, Hagerstown                         |
| MAD         | May 10-11   | District Conference, Port Deposit                       |



**Above**—General Council began grappling with the mountain of directives from Conference, creating a major challenge for budgeting and staffing. **Below** **Right**—Members of General Council and staff confer during break.



# CLERGY DEVELOPMENT

## Job Update

At the recent General Council meetings, Rev. Pat Bumgardner and Rev. Steve Torrance (members of the CCCC) proposed a transition process to assist in making a smooth transition to the new credentialing process. As a result, the position of Director of Clergy Development will now begin on March 1, 1996, and not January 1, 1996 as was advertised. Resumes will be accepted until December 31, 1995, and a decision will be made by February. For further information, contact Ravi Verma, Director of Administration, at 213/464-5100.

# UTAH

## Utah MCC Receives PEP Grant

MCC Bridgerland has been awarded a \$15,000 grant from the Utah State Department of Health to conduct peer education programs using the UFMCC PEP format. The group will work among area youth at risk, including youth in churches, public,

private and alternative schools, and incarcerated youth.

The first year goal of the group is to train up to thirty youth aged 13-24 as peer educators. This will entail intensive training sessions using the information and techniques outlined in the UFMCC project delivered to all church early in 1995.

The application for state Health Department funds was MCC Bridgerland's first attempt at grant procurement.

# HOLIDAY EVENT

## Rev. Perry to be "Roasted" in December

There will be a feast on December 9th at the Pickwick Banquet Center in Burbank. And the "entree" of this special roast will be Rev. Elder Troy Perry.

Roasters Elder Larry Rodriguez, Rev. Joseph Gilbert, Rev. Elder Jeri Ann Harvey, Rev. Willie Smith and Los Angeles City Councilman Richard Alatorre will join master of ceremonies Rev. Elder Nancy Wilson. All are long time associates of Rev. Perry's and promise to have some wonderful stories to tell about him.

The event will include dinner, a silent auction of memorabilia, and dancing after the roast. Proceeds will benefit the UFMCC Capital Campaign, the MCC Southwest District Prison Ministry, the Chris Brownlie Hospice and Divine Redeemer MCC. Seats are \$65 per person. Payment must be received no later than November 22nd. Call 818/500-7124 for more information, or mail your payment to Divine Redeemer MCC, 346 Riverdale Drive, Glendale, CA 91204. To place a congratulatory announcement or advertisement in the souvenir program, contact Divine Redeemer MCC 818/500-7124.

# LETTER FROM REV. PERRY

## The Children of MCC

Throughout the Fellowship, congregations are experiencing growing numbers of children. A growing number of churches are developing ministries especially for children and youth. It is a vital and important ministry in which every congregation should invest time and effort. Rev. Elder Troy D. Perry, during a recent visit to Texas, wrote the following letter:

There is nothing I find more precious than visiting local MCC's and discovering children's programs. I



JUSTICE

Rev. Mel White

Martin Luther King said that time is on the side of injustice. But one day, if we all work long and hard enough, truth will triumph over the current campaign to dehumanize gay and

lesbian children. Since time is not on our side, we must all do our best, and quickly, to help guarantee that justice will "roll down like mighty waters" for us and for all God's children who are targets of bigotry and misinformation.

The next twelve months in the United States will decide much because of the impending national election. There are 1.8 million Christian Coalition members working in groups of ten throughout America's 175,000 voting precincts. One of their primary goals is to "eliminate homosexuality." If they succeed in influencing the election of an American president in 1996, who appoints judges and works in concert with "their" congressional delegation, we could experience a new and unprecedented era of suffering and discrimination.

We must not let that happen. I know that you are overworked, understaffed, and underfunded. But what could happen to the people we love and serve if we don't take a stand on their behalf?

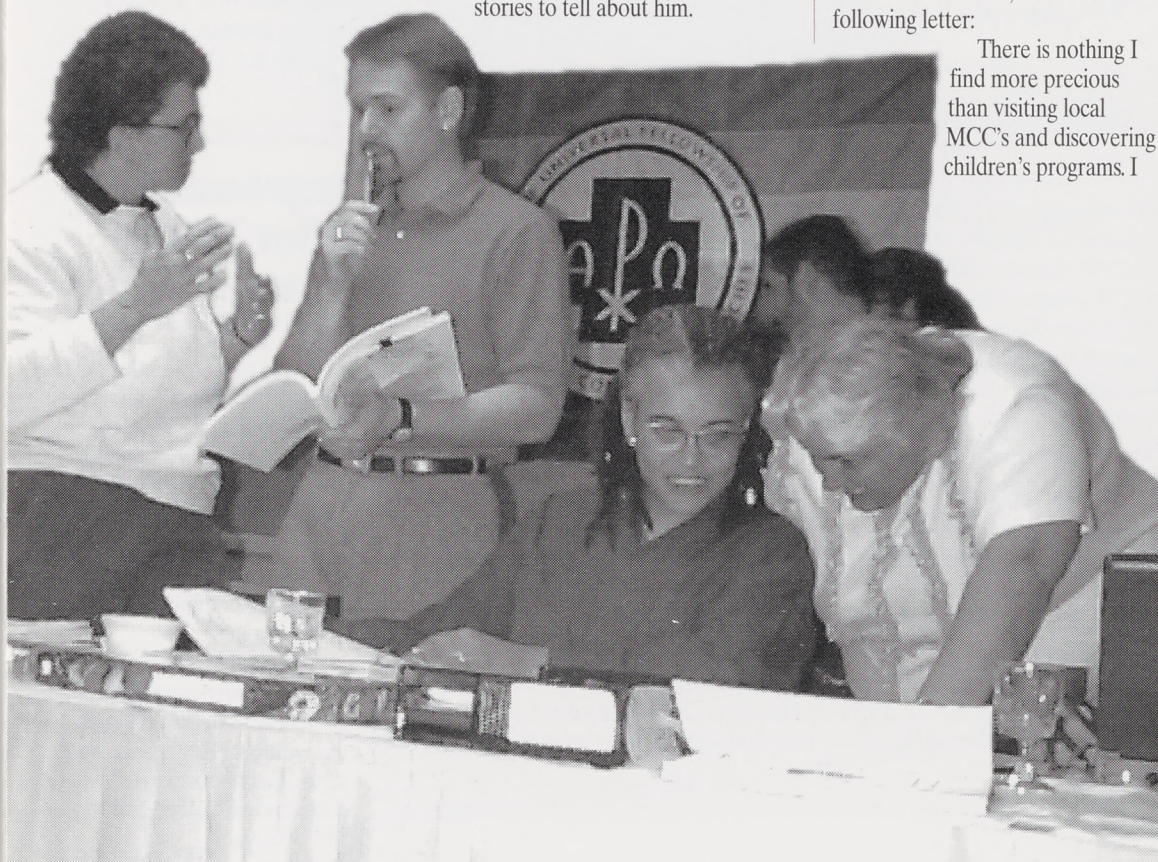
Here are some things we can do: First, do you have a justice team at work in your congregation? If you have even one person interested in helping your church build a team, contact me for ideas.

Second: is there a network of local individuals or gay-friendly organizations or congregations that are meeting regularly to coordinate justice efforts in your city? If so, are you a member? If not, could you help get your allies together to create a local plan?

Third: are you organizing a campaign in your church to register gay-friendly voters for the 1996 elections?

The truth is that the odds are against us. But in Gandhi's words, "If we are armed with truth and committed to out-loving our enemies, what a difference we will make." I am encouraged, not discouraged. I feel hope, not fear. I am excited about the future, not depressed. "Never doubt," said Margaret Mead, "that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever does..."

Mel White, P.O. Box 609, Ennis, Texas 75120  
E-Mail RevMel@aol.com





have just come back from visiting MCC of the Resurrection in Houston, Texas, and nothing gave me more joy than to see the work of Rev. Carolyn Mobley as she gave the sermon before I preached and before they left the sanctuary for the children's program that church provides. The wonderful thing about the children that become a part of our children's programs is whatever else those children may grow up to be or not to be, because of our programs I know they won't grow up to be homophobic. I believe it is absolutely imperative that MCC's make sure that we have programs for children in all of our churches. The scriptures tell us "train up a child in the way they should be and when they grow old they will not depart from the truth." It is important that our children's programs reflect the message that God has called us to proclaim: that God loves ALL people.

#### GLOBAL OUTREACH

## World Community Builders Funding Develops

**World Community Builders**, which began as an experiment in 1992, has grown into what is hoped to be a

permanent ministry of the UFMCC. As part of Global Outreach, funding for the ministry's first three years came from several major contributions and a handfull of regular supporters' monthly pledges. With the growth of World Community Builders beyond the experimental stage, it is important for the ministry to stand on a solid financial footing.

The Board of Trustees recently passed a budget of \$2,125.00 per month to carry the ministry through the end of 1996. The General Conference of the UFMCC recently designated an allotment of \$200.00 per month for the period of 1996-1997.

World Community Builders has

done extensive work in Nigeria, Mexico and other areas, helping to build and remodel churches, clinics, and other needed projects. If you or your church would like to donate to this wonderful project, or you would like to receive a 1996 work camp

**Above**—Members of the Womens Secretariat gathered at General Conference in Atlanta. **Right**—Some of the registered participants at the first all-New Zealand Conference in October.

schedule please write to: World Community Builders, Inc., 305 Ben Franklin Rd., Gilbert, SC 29054.

#### AROUND THE FELLOWSHIP

### Praises

Congratulations to the following churches who are celebrating Anniversaries: MCC Los Angeles, California (27 Years); MCC of Greater Tulsa, Oklahoma (22 Years); MCC Melbourne, Australia (21 Years); MCC Auckland, New Zealand (20 Years); MCC of San Antonio, Texas (19 Years); MCC For All The Saints, Los Angeles, California (18 Years); River of Life MCC, Richland, Washington (15 Years); Good Samaritan MCC, Whittier, California (10 Years) ■ "Planet Out" a new gay/lesbian/bi/transgender content provider for the new Microsoft Network, an on-line computer service, has graciously provided a new bulletin board in their Religion and Spirituality areas specifically for UFMCC. MCCers can leave messages for each other and discuss items of interest. ■ Congratulations to Rev. Dr. Lori Dick and her life partner Teri Tompkins of Los Angeles, California, who are overjoyed to announce the arrival of their daughter, Katherine Lora-Li Dick (Wu Jiang Ying). She was born May 5, 1995 and adopted in October from Wuhu, Anhui, China.

### Transitions

Rev. Elder Jean White has resigned her senior pastor position at MCC London effective Nov. 22. Please pray for Jean and for the MCC London congregation. ■ Rev. David Regnaud is the new Minister of Development at All God's Children, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

### Prayers

For Rev. Reid Christensen and First MCC of Atlanta, Georgia, as Reid begins another round of chemotherapy for recurrent cancer. ■ For Rev. Frankye White, senior pastor of St. Luke's MCC, Jacksonville, Florida, as she goes on sabbatical for two months. ■ For the family and friends of Craig Culver, a member of HeartSong, who went home to Jesus on August 6, 1995.

#### MCC AOTEAROA

## Impressions after Twenty Years

*Rev. Elder Wilhelmina Hein*

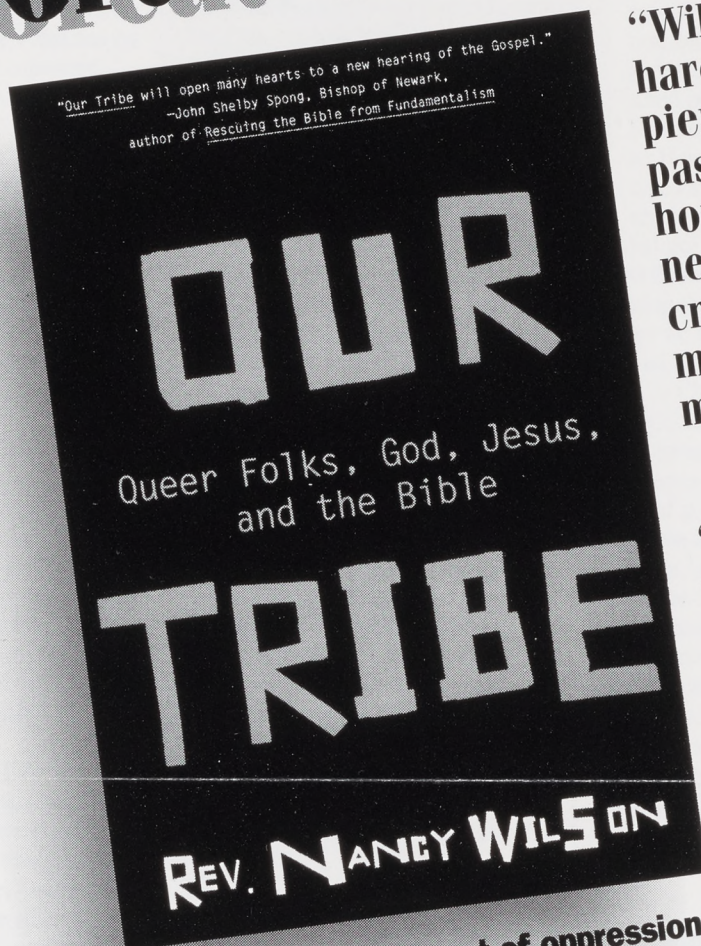
**There are so many impressions** about Metropolitan Community Churches in Aotearoa, New Zealand, and my relationship with the churches here has been an ongoing one since the time we became a (then) Church Extension Area. I want to share some of those impressions in this account.

MCC in this land began in 1975 and, with Australia, on New Year's Day 1976, became the District of Australasia. We seemed hundreds at that conference in Sydney, and New





# Great Gift Idea!



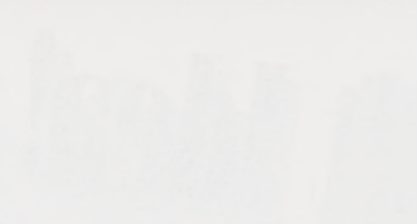
"Wilson exudes pithy humor and hard-nosed boldness ... with piercing deconstruction of passages that buttress homophobia, she charges into the next millennium filled with sharp criticism of Catholics, mainline Protestants and fundamentalists." -Publishers Weekly

"Our Tribe will open many hearts to a new hearing of the Gospel" -John Shelby Spong, Bishop of Newark, author of Rescuing the Bible from Fundamentalism.

Is the Bible a document of oppression, brimming with "texts of terror" to be wielded against lesbians and gay men? Or can traces of queer history and a message of all-redeeming love be teased from its pages? From the streets of Los Angeles to the Vatican, *Our Tribe* is the anecdotal, scripture-citing, and sometimes very funny account of Rev. Nancy Wilson's mission to radicalize the mainstream church by passionately proclaiming a "queer theology" that can lead all Christian fold-gay, lesbian, and straight-into the next millennium. HarperSanFrancisco. **BP0093 \$13.95**

|                                                                                           |          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |  |             |          |                |        |                 |        |                  |        |                  |        |                  |        |                  |        |                   |        |                    |        |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|-------------|----------|----------------|--------|-----------------|--------|------------------|--------|------------------|--------|------------------|--------|------------------|--------|-------------------|--------|--------------------|--------|
| QTY _____                                                                                 |          | TOTAL _____                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |  |             |          |                |        |                 |        |                  |        |                  |        |                  |        |                  |        |                   |        |                    |        |
| _____ \$13.95 EACH                                                                        |          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |  |             |          |                |        |                 |        |                  |        |                  |        |                  |        |                  |        |                   |        |                    |        |
| Name _____                                                                                |          | For churches and organizations: Orders to be billed will be charged a \$2.00 handling cost.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |  |             |          |                |        |                 |        |                  |        |                  |        |                  |        |                  |        |                   |        |                    |        |
| Address _____                                                                             |          | All payments must be made in U.S. dollars.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |  |             |          |                |        |                 |        |                  |        |                  |        |                  |        |                  |        |                   |        |                    |        |
| City, State, Prov _____                                                                   |          | <input type="checkbox"/> Enclosed is my check or money order                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |  |             |          |                |        |                 |        |                  |        |                  |        |                  |        |                  |        |                   |        |                    |        |
| Send to: UFMCC Resource Center, 5300 Santa Monica Blvd., Suite 304, Los Angeles, CA 90029 |          | <input type="checkbox"/> Please charge my Visa/Master Card/Am Ex                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |  |             |          |                |        |                 |        |                  |        |                  |        |                  |        |                  |        |                   |        |                    |        |
| 213/464-5100 Fax 213/464-2123                                                             |          | No _____                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |  |             |          |                |        |                 |        |                  |        |                  |        |                  |        |                  |        |                   |        |                    |        |
|                                                                                           |          | Exp _____                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |  |             |          |                |        |                 |        |                  |        |                  |        |                  |        |                  |        |                   |        |                    |        |
|                                                                                           |          | Signature _____                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |  |             |          |                |        |                 |        |                  |        |                  |        |                  |        |                  |        |                   |        |                    |        |
|                                                                                           |          | <b>Shipping Costs:</b><br><table border="0"> <tr> <td>ORDER TOTAL</td> <td>SHIPPING</td> </tr> <tr> <td>\$2.00 to 5.00</td> <td>\$1.95</td> </tr> <tr> <td>\$5.01 to 10.00</td> <td>\$2.95</td> </tr> <tr> <td>\$10.01 to 20.00</td> <td>\$3.95</td> </tr> <tr> <td>\$20.01 to 40.00</td> <td>\$4.95</td> </tr> <tr> <td>\$40.01 to 60.00</td> <td>\$5.95</td> </tr> <tr> <td>\$60.01 to 80.00</td> <td>\$7.95</td> </tr> <tr> <td>\$80.01 to 100.00</td> <td>\$8.95</td> </tr> <tr> <td>\$100.01 to 120.00</td> <td>\$9.95</td> </tr> </table> |  | ORDER TOTAL | SHIPPING | \$2.00 to 5.00 | \$1.95 | \$5.01 to 10.00 | \$2.95 | \$10.01 to 20.00 | \$3.95 | \$20.01 to 40.00 | \$4.95 | \$40.01 to 60.00 | \$5.95 | \$60.01 to 80.00 | \$7.95 | \$80.01 to 100.00 | \$8.95 | \$100.01 to 120.00 | \$9.95 |
| ORDER TOTAL                                                                               | SHIPPING |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |  |             |          |                |        |                 |        |                  |        |                  |        |                  |        |                  |        |                   |        |                    |        |
| \$2.00 to 5.00                                                                            | \$1.95   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |  |             |          |                |        |                 |        |                  |        |                  |        |                  |        |                  |        |                   |        |                    |        |
| \$5.01 to 10.00                                                                           | \$2.95   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |  |             |          |                |        |                 |        |                  |        |                  |        |                  |        |                  |        |                   |        |                    |        |
| \$10.01 to 20.00                                                                          | \$3.95   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |  |             |          |                |        |                 |        |                  |        |                  |        |                  |        |                  |        |                   |        |                    |        |
| \$20.01 to 40.00                                                                          | \$4.95   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |  |             |          |                |        |                 |        |                  |        |                  |        |                  |        |                  |        |                   |        |                    |        |
| \$40.01 to 60.00                                                                          | \$5.95   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |  |             |          |                |        |                 |        |                  |        |                  |        |                  |        |                  |        |                   |        |                    |        |
| \$60.01 to 80.00                                                                          | \$7.95   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |  |             |          |                |        |                 |        |                  |        |                  |        |                  |        |                  |        |                   |        |                    |        |
| \$80.01 to 100.00                                                                         | \$8.95   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |  |             |          |                |        |                 |        |                  |        |                  |        |                  |        |                  |        |                   |        |                    |        |
| \$100.01 to 120.00                                                                        | \$9.95   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |  |             |          |                |        |                 |        |                  |        |                  |        |                  |        |                  |        |                   |        |                    |        |





THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO  
DIVISION OF THE PHYSICAL SCIENCES  
DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY  
530 SOUTH EAST ASIAN AVENUE  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60607-7070  
TEL: (773) 936-5000  
FAX: (773) 936-5001  
WWW: WWW.CHEM.UCHICAGO.EDU

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO  
DIVISION OF THE PHYSICAL SCIENCES  
DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY  
530 SOUTH EAST ASIAN AVENUE  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60607-7070  
TEL: (773) 936-5000  
FAX: (773) 936-5001  
WWW: WWW.CHEM.UCHICAGO.EDU

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO  
DIVISION OF THE PHYSICAL SCIENCES  
DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY  
530 SOUTH EAST ASIAN AVENUE  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60607-7070  
TEL: (773) 936-5000  
FAX: (773) 936-5001  
WWW: WWW.CHEM.UCHICAGO.EDU

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO  
DIVISION OF THE PHYSICAL SCIENCES  
DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY  
530 SOUTH EAST ASIAN AVENUE  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60607-7070  
TEL: (773) 936-5000  
FAX: (773) 936-5001  
WWW: WWW.CHEM.UCHICAGO.EDU

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO  
DIVISION OF THE PHYSICAL SCIENCES  
DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY  
530 SOUTH EAST ASIAN AVENUE  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60607-7070  
TEL: (773) 936-5000  
FAX: (773) 936-5001  
WWW: WWW.CHEM.UCHICAGO.EDU

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO  
DIVISION OF THE PHYSICAL SCIENCES  
DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY  
530 SOUTH EAST ASIAN AVENUE  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60607-7070  
TEL: (773) 936-5000  
FAX: (773) 936-5001  
WWW: WWW.CHEM.UCHICAGO.EDU



Zealand was represented, as I remember, by Don Mence. We in Australia knew little about our family in Aotearoa, but Don brought us news, kept us informed, and hopefully we kept him and the church in Auckland connected. Thus we joyfully, and sometimes painfully, travelled together for four years. What joy to greet each other at the annual district conferences. What a pain to hear of the sudden death of Rev. Peter Alexander-Smith, who had come to Auckland to shepherd the young church.

In late 1979, two clergy interested in travelling to New Zealand convinced the Board of Elders to create New Zealand as a Church Extension Area. There was little or no consultation when we all learned in early 1980 that New Zealand had been set adrift, cut from its sibling churches in Australia. I believe this was the biggest mistake, which has taken us many years to get over. Isolation, a feeling of being "left out", a sense of helplessness, all contributed to slow growth.

I arrived in July 1980, and by then the church had already split. What pain as I heard stories. How sad, when looking back now to see how ill-trained people were. And where was God in all this? I am still not sure God was in any of it, but certainly there was a God-moment when, in Advent 1980, Don Mence and I reached out as Pastors of our respective groups to begin reconciliation. It is sad that we still tell stories of "how it was" (of course always from our perspective of "rightness") rather than moving to a reconciliation of pro-active, mutual respect.

My own journey was painfully isolated in a new land. I felt loved, I felt unsure. I felt wanted, I felt discarded. Perception plays funny tricks which led me to leave the clergy ministry. But God had other plans, and the church went on. Michelle Goodman, a student clergy, came and went in leadership, moving back to Australia. Rev. Leigh Neighbour led the Auckland church and brought a particular style. Doug McGee added his pastoral talents. And through it all, and the vagaries of a shocking 1980's economy, the church went on.

We tried new churches in South

#### MEMORIAM

## Herb Pomeroy

**Mr. Herb Pomeroy** was a former Clerk of the Board at both MCC Los Angeles, California and Good Samaritan MCC, Whittier, California, and was personal secretary to Rev. Elder Troy Perry. He died on October 22 due to complications from pneumonia. He was 61 years old.

Auckland and Rotorua. Neither were overly successful. Finally in 1988, Rev. Richard Mickley arrived and began to boost the Auckland Church. He also brought a unique style of ministry. Unfortunately, enthusiasm got the better of the church and suddenly there was MCC House. If nothing else symbolized the years of "wilderness" about MCC in Aotearoa for me, it was this. Lots of enthusiasm, response to a need, but little training and no screening! I think MCC House showed us how we can be rescuers, but become unable to rescue ourselves. Mercifully people did grow through MCC House, but we also need to remember those that did not. Could we have done it better?

Meanwhile in 1990 MCC in

Christchurch began. Again, the painful often-repeated-in-UFMCC process of a very willing but untrained leader, hundreds of miles to the closest colleagues and next MCC, and lots of needy people! Ken Batt did what he could, but, recognizing the need for training, took time out to do so. However, needs, training time, time for self, pastoral care, ecumenical work — how do we balance it all? Only in 1995 - 20

years down the track - are we learning about counting the cost before we actually have to count it. In the end, our own ineptness caused MCC in Christchurch to leave UFMCC and we are, in some ways, still counting the cost of that.

I became Coordinator for New Zealand in 1990, but Eldership in July 1991 took me from that position. Living in Australia at the time did not help either! David Teggert became Coordinator and worked with the local church and MCC House. But by then we had begun to realize I think just what sort of talents were needed, and what sort of trained professionalism will move us to a place of being respected. The scriptures teach us that by our fruits shall we be known.

#### CHRONICLES/SEPTEMBER 1995

### Top 20 Tithes

1. Sunshine Cathedral MCC, Ft. Lauderdale \$2,773.77
2. MCC of the Resurrection, Houston \$2,769.86
3. MCC Washington, Washington \$1,933.14
4. King of Peace MCC, St. Petersburg \$1,781.96
5. MCC Austin, Austin \$1,748.90
6. MCC Toronto, Toronto \$1,678.69
7. MCC San Francisco, San Francisco \$1,250.85
8. MCC Long Beach, Long Beach \$1,181.45
9. First MCC of Atlanta, Atlanta \$1,136.11
10. MCC Tampa, Tampa \$1,059.82
11. MCC Richmond, Richmond \$1,023.93
12. MCC New York, New York \$952.76
13. Open Door MCC, Boyds \$938.59
14. MCC Charlotte, Charlotte \$903.20
15. Agape MCC, Fort Worth \$835.31
16. All God's Children MCC, Minneapolis \$822.75
17. River City MCC, Sacramento \$812.15
18. MCC of the Palm Beaches, West Palm Beach \$795.93
19. Gentle Shepherd MCC, Phoenix \$783.29
20. MCC Charleston, Charleston \$765.35

(These figures reflect the 10 percent of each local church's monthly income that is reported to Fellowship headquarters.)

### Top 20 Per Capita

1. MCC of Greater Hayward, San Lorenzo \$44.55
2. MCC of the Disciples, Washington \$42.53
3. MCC of the Palm Beaches, West Palm Beach \$33.30
4. MCC Long Beach, Long Beach \$31.01
5. MCC of Living Faith, St. Louis \$29.11
6. Ke Anuenue O Ke Aloha, Honolulu \$28.44
7. Open Arms MCC, Rochester \$27.81
8. MCC Johnson County, Shawnee \$27.65
9. Faith Eternal MCC, Springfield \$26.99
10. MCC London, London \$25.71
11. MCC in Charlottesville, Charlottesville \$24.17
12. Christ the Liberator MCC, New Brunswick \$23.87
13. MCC Huntsville, Huntsville \$21.73
14. MCC New Haven, New Haven \$21.72
15. Reconciliation MCC, Grand Rapids \$21.68
16. New Life MCC, Charlotte \$21.45
17. Open Door MCC, Boyds \$20.63
18. MCC of the Incarnation, Oak Park \$20.02
19. Harvest MCC, Denton \$19.39
20. Church of the Resurrection MCC, Chicago \$19.15

(These figures reflect the average individual weekly offerings to the local church.)

## LEAD US INTO THE 21st CENTURY

*Seeking spirit-filled Pastor interested in a long-term commitment to our spiritually diverse church. Situated in one of the most beautiful locations in America, we are offering a pastorate in excess of half-time, with benefits. Self-motivated, credentialed clergy should request a Pastoral Search Application packet by December 15, 1995.*

Pastoral Search Team, MCC of The Blue Ridge  
P.O. Box 20495, Roanoke, VA 24018  
You may request an application packet by e-mail:  
MCCBRCLERK@AOL.COM





# THE GIFT THAT COUNTS



## MEMO

TO: ALL CHOIR MEMBERS *cm*

It has been my honor and privilege to lead this choir for the past seven years. I want to remember us as we were, creating beautiful music in the name of love. As a symbol of my appreciation, I have purchased for every member a Band of Infinity.

This Band counts how many gays, lesbians and our supporters there are in the world. These Bands will immortalize the moments we shared together.

Please have your ring size for me at tomorrow's rehearsal so we can all wear them at our final performance.

BAND OF



INFINITY

Each band is sterling silver & hand stamped in sequential order.  
Available in ring sizes 5-12. Also available in 14k gold.  
Order now to be included in first 10,000.

**800-349-5911**

**\$29.<sup>50</sup> PLUS \$4.<sup>95</sup> SHIPPING & HANDLING (CA RES. ADD 8.25% SALES TAX)**

VISA • MASTERCARD • AMEX

CORPORATE OFFICES: 8369 W. 3RD ST., L.A., CA 90048



Part of those fruits for me lie in serious training, and critical reflection and analysis.

The last few years have seen much change. A new church in Hamilton, our first fully-trained, academically-qualified woman clergy there, a new church in Christchurch, qualified clergy in all pulpits, a Coordinator with qualifications, connections to Samaritan College and other places of study—all of these will contribute to what we might yet be.

My beliefs impact what I do in my church and hopefully they will impact how we grow as MCC in Aotearoa New Zealand. What are some of those beliefs? Well, here goes....

- An infrastructure and lots of preliminary work before we start a new MCC anywhere.
- All leadership trained and qualified in or through recognized institutions.
- No-one appointed unless they meet criteria for the job.
- Clergy leaders in pulpits until such time that New Zealand recognizes lay leadership as pastoral.
- Serious, intentional, ongoing training and validated qualifications. I would rather go slow than ever rush to start something again.
- Leadership intentionally connecting with each other, with other church leaders (ecumenical) and with UFMCC.
- Finding creative ways of being church in places where we cannot be church every Sunday morning because of distance or other issues.
- Becoming public about being involved in Maori issues as part of Christian education and our stand as a denomination.
- Empowering younger leaders to be taken seriously.

There is still much to do. Larger cities like Wellington and Dunedin still await an MCC. Smaller places like Nelson, Invercargill, Hawkes Bay, Rotorua, and rural areas, still want Good News. We are here, let's make it possible without compromising the quality of leadership that must be part of our Good News. Only then will be learn to struggle together and make it happen into the 21st century!

#### HIV/AIDS

## AIDS Memorial Celebrates

Now in its tenth year, the National AIDS Memorial at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City is visited by thousands each year, yet remains relatively unknown to the general public. It is the only permanent memorial in the country honoring all who have died as a result of the HIV/AIDS pandemic. The constantly growing list of names (now over 5000) inscribed in The Book of Remembrance at the Memorial provides a vivid testimony to the widespread impact this plague has had on our society. In

addition to honoring the dead, the National AIDS Memorial serves the living by funding organizations and projects devoted to AIDS service, education and pastoral care. This Memorial includes names from all over the world. No contribution is required to have a name inscribed. Anyone wishing to provide the name of a deceased individual for the Book of Remembrance, contribute to the Fund, or apply for a grant, should write to: National AIDS Memorial, Cathedral of St. John the Divine, P.O. Box 1036, New York, NY 10011.

#### NOVEMBER 1995

*Keeping in Touch* is a monthly publication of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches. We are a church of the lesbian and gay community, open to all. Our mission is to call people to new life through the liberating gospel of Jesus Christ, confront injustice through Christian social action, and create a community of healing and reconciliation. *Keeping in Touch* may be freely copied for distribution in UFMCC. Portions may be reprinted in UFMCC church publications, with attribution. For other distribution, please request permission. Subscriptions are free upon request. Send address changes, news and ideas to: *Keeping in Touch*, 5300 Santa Monica Blvd., #304, Los Angeles, CA 90029; (213) 464-5100. Deadline for each issue: 15th of previous month.

**Editorial Board:** Rev. Elder Troy D. Perry, Moderator; Mr. Ravi Verma, Director of Administration; Rev. Kittredge Cherry, Editor

Ms. Nancy Fackrell, Typesetting; Norm Mason, Graphic Concept

### EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

## DISTRICT COORDINATOR

### FULL TIME

### South Central District

Background check and drug screen will be required

SCD Nominating Committee

Jean Strickland, Chair

9610 Teasdale

Austin, Texas 78753

512/613-7095

Page 512/613-7095

#### CLASSIFIED

Cost is \$15 for the first 25 words or less. Additional words are 70 cents per word. Numbers and abbreviations count as words. All classifieds must be prepaid in U.S. funds. All copy for Keeping in Touch Classified Advertising is subject to the approval of the Editorial Board. Appearance of advertising does not imply, nor does it constitute, endorsement by UFMCC. Mail ads to: Keeping in Touch Classifieds, 5300 Santa Monica Blvd., #304, Los Angeles, CA 90029.

#### BOOKS/PUBLICATIONS

FREE! UFMCC Resource Catalog - The Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches is offering the new RESOURCE CENTER CATALOG. Please write or call: UFMCC Catalog, 5300 Santa Monica Blvd., #304, Los Angeles, CA 90029; or call (213) 464-5100.

#### POSITIONS AVAILABLE

The UFMCC Mid-Atlantic District is announcing the expiration of term for its current District Coordinator. The incumbent intends to seek re-election. With respect to process, the nomination period is declared open. Interested persons should send a letter of interest and resume to Mr. Dan Schellhorn, Assistant District Coordinator, 1231 New Jersey Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20001. Specific questions may be answered through Mr. Schellhorn at (202) 638-1409. Deadline to submit nomination is Dec. 31, 1995.

READY TO GROW! Visionary church with Senior Pastor and Office Manager seeks third full time team member. If your call is to motivate, train, and involve people, send letter and resume by December 1, 1995 to: Staff Development Team, 2501 Park Avenue, Richmond, VA 23220.

#### RETREATS/WORKSHOPS

GAY MEN'S JOURNEYS that foster self-discovery, brotherhood, and personal growth. Coming up: February retreat at beach oasis in Mexico, Couples workshop in Florida, March River rafting adventure. For brochure call Spirit Journeys 800-490-3684.

**Checks of Choice**  
...benefits like causes

**Singles:**  
☐ 200 (\$18.95)  
☐ 400 (\$31.95)

**Duplicates:**  
☐ 150 (\$20.95)  
☐ 300 (\$33.95)

**Design:**  
☐ Triangle (pink/grey)  
☐ Red Ribbon  
☐ Symbols (purple)  
☐ 1st 3 Designs (\$1 add)  
☐ Stop Aids (red)  
☐ Pink Ribbon  
☐ Rainbow Flag  
☐ *Brush Script* (\$2 add)

**new design**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Daytime Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Checks begin with # \_\_\_\_\_  
 (will begin with #1000 if not indicated)

To order checks send:  
☐ Voided check & Deposit slip  
☐ Script &/or 3 Designs (add'l)  
☐ Sales tax (CA - 8.25%)  
☐ Shipping - \$3.50  
☐ Check payable to Check Us Out

**Check Us Out**  
 PO Box 249  
 San Leandro, CA  
 94577-0149  
**510-430-8844**  
 US bank coding guaranteed

<http://www.gayweb.com/chex/>



## FIRST CLASS PRESORT

**universal fellowship  
of metropolitan community  
churches**

5300 Santa Monica Boulevard, Suite 304  
Los Angeles, California 90029 USA  
Telephone 213/464-5100  
Facsimile 213/464-2123

